

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached one (1) replacement sheet of drawings include changes to Figure 1. A third magnetic layer, a fourth magnetic layer and a second non-magnetic intermediate layer have been added to Figure 1 and are indicated by reference numerals 16, 17 and 18, respectively. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet

## REMARKS

### **I. Introduction**

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 12, claims 11 and 13 to 23 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants express appreciation for the acknowledgment of priority and consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement.

### **II. Objection to the Drawings**

As regards the objection to Fig. 1, the Examiner will note that Fig. 1 has been amended to add the third magnetic layer, the fourth magnetic layer, the second non-magnetic intermediate layer and their respective reference numerals 16, 17 and 18. In addition, the Specification has been amended to adapt the Specification to the claims and to the amendments made to Fig. 1. No new matter has been added to the Drawings or to the Specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

### **III. Objection to Claim 17**

As regards the objection to claim 17, the Examiner will note that claims 15 and 17 have been amended to change "layer stack" to --magneto-resistive layer stack--, thereby obviating the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

### **IV. Rejection of Claims 11 to 13, 15 to 17 and 20 to 23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 11 to 13, 15 to 17 and 20 to 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,841,611 ("Sakakima et al."). It is respectfully submitted that Sakakima et. al do not anticipate claims 11 to 13, 15 to 17 and 20 to 23 for at least the following reasons.

As an initial matter, claim 16 has been amended without prejudice to correct a typographic error.

Although Applicants may not agree with the merits of the rejection, to simplify matters, claim 11 has been amended without prejudice to incorporate parts of the features of claim 12, and claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice. In addition, claim 13 has been amended without prejudice to conform claim 13 to amended claim 11. Specifically, claim 11 as amended recites that **(a) the first magnetic layer is a magnetically soft layer, made of one of permalloy, CoFe, Co and magnetic alloys containing these materials, and the second magnetic layer is a magnetically hard layer, made of one of CoSm and Cr, and (b) the first magnetic layer is a magnetically hard layer, made of one of CoSm and Cr, and the second magnetic layer is a magnetically soft layer, made of one of permalloy, CoFe, Co and magnetic alloys containing these materials.** Sakakima et. al do not disclose, or even suggest, a magnetically soft layer made of permalloy, CoFe, Co or magnetic alloys containing these materials, or a magnetically hard layer made of CoSm or Cr. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Sakakima et. al do not anticipate claim 11 for at least these reasons.

Claim 22 is an independent device claim analogous to claim 11 and has been amended without prejudice in a manner analogous to claim 11. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Sakakima et. al do not anticipate claim 22 for at least the reasons set forth above.

As mentioned above, claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the rejection with respect to this claim.

As for claims 13, 15 to 17, 20 and 21 and claim 23, which ultimately depend from independent claims 11 and 22, respectively, and therefore include all of the features of claims 11 and 22, respectively, it is respectfully submitted that Sakakima et. al do not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the reasons set forth above in support of claims 11 and 22, respectively.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **V. Rejection of Claims 11 and 14 to 23 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)**

Claims 11 and 14 to 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,611,034 ("Den"). It is respectfully submitted that Den does not anticipate claims 11 and 14 to 23 for at least the following reasons.

Regarding claims 11 and 22, Den does not disclose, or even suggest, the feature that one of: (a) the first magnetic layer is a magnetically soft layer, made of one of permalloy, CoFe, Co and magnetic alloys containing these materials, and the second magnetic layer is a magnetically hard layer, made of one of CoSm and Cr, and (b) the first magnetic layer is a magnetically hard layer, made of one of CoSm and Cr, and the second magnetic layer is a magnetically soft layer, made of one of permalloy, CoFe, Co and magnetic alloys containing these materials. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Den does not anticipate claims 11 and 22 for at least these reasons.

As for claims 14 to 21 and claim 23, which ultimately depend from independent claims 11 and 22, respectively, and therefore include all of the features of claims 11 and 22, respectively, it is respectfully submitted that Den does not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the reasons set forth above in support of claims 11 and 22, respectively.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

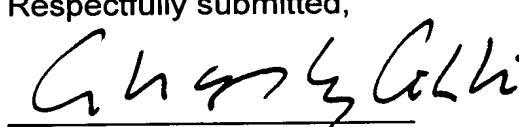
#### VI. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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